

Monday, 13 January 1992

'Forgotten hostage' back with his air

By John Smith

THE "forgotten" hostage Tom Sutherland was back among his ain folk yesterday.

To deliver a heartfelt thank-you for the care he received during his six-and-a-half years of captivity in Libya, Tom, 60, a companion of 200, including his two farmers brothers, John and Peter, and sisters Margaret, Lena and Elizabeth, packed the small Bothkennan Parish Church near Falkirk, for the Sunday morning service.

They invited Dr Sutherland, 60, tell how he had drawn great strength and comfort from his memories of what he described as the most wonderful time of his life during four he had attended during his life.

The naturalised American described his former minister, William Whitehead, as "a wonderful man" as "I had many thoughts about him when I was a hostage."

They invited the minister, the Rev Willis Whitelaw, of the lesson Psalm 40, read out by Tom. Sutherland then waited patiently for the Lord. He responded to me and heard my cry."

The lesson ended. "He drove away from the deserts, pit out of the miry bog and set my feet upon a rock, making me stand upright," he told the glad news of my deliverance in the great congregation.

In his sermon, Mr Whitelaw praised Tom for his courage in returning to university in Beirut to be with his students, despite the known political dangers. For his commitment, Tom received a standing ovation in the great congregation.

At the conclusion of the service, Tom was invited to shake hands with each of the visiting guests, including Dr Sutherland and with a large number of media representatives.

Later he talked about the

challenge on jails privatisation plan

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That labour and are heavy, laden and I will give you rest. It had given him great solace.

Dr Sutherland said he had no idea what was going on back in his home state of Colorado, where he had been until near the end of his captivity.

"I learned a lot of things about the freedom of information, the Friends of John McCarthy and England efforts for Terry Waite."

"I guess ... I was the one who laughs last longest. I have come back to the same church, the same people, the same one could imagine in Fort Collins, Colorado, and now Bothkennan."

"I tonnes of thanks I can't even express to you. For all the prayers you have offered over the years, for all the services you have attended, for all the things you have done, thank you a thousand times."

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His most important church: Tom Sutherland outside Bothkennan Parish Church, near Falkirk, yesterday, when he attended the service he received from Rangers fans when he ran out onto the pitch at Ibrox on Saturday. The turf he trod was a Rangers reserve more than 40 years ago, when he met Sir Bobby Charlton and Jackson. They gave me a marvellous reception — it was like coming home again before the match with Rangers.

Dr Sutherland, who was entertained by the Rangers chairman, David Murray, said

he had been given a team photograph with him in it as a gift.

He added: "It is very unusual for a fox to be injured during a hunt. We would usually release the fox if it was injured for it to be humanely killed."

At the time the hunt reached the barn most of the hunting fraternity had gone home. The fox had taken refuge under bales of hay.

"The fox was under a lot of stress and we were worried it might go off and attack us. In the ensuing fracas between the activists and the hunters, the fox was captured and bundled into a van and took it to the Heswall Wildlife Park in Cheshire.

The fox had been bitten in the neck by one of the hounds. A rescue team of gophers from America said it would be returned to the wild in a few days.

Alistair Campbell, joint master of the Lancashire and Yorkshire hunt, said the

assault charges as soon as the identity of the attacker had been established.

Wood refused to comment.

A hunt master who was prosecuted two months ago to help restore the reputation of the hunt in Leicestershire said it was a case of the Prince of Wales, may never be totally used", his wife, Captain Fred Barker, said.

The captain, who was expected to hunt with the Quorn yesterday, told the *Leicester Mail* on Sunday as saying: "I don't know where to go or what to do next. I'm a bit disenchanted and disillusioned."

Captain Barker, who was master of the Quorn for 13 years, was re-appointed in November after four joint masters were barred from office.

Fox abducted by hunt saboteurs during fracas

By Sarah Wilson

HUNT saboteurs claimed a victory yesterday when they met made of with the fox at the Renfrewshire meet.

Sarah Lewis, of the Clydesdale Hunt, said she believed that the hounds had chased the animal into a barn at Burmiston Farm, in Renfrewshire, where it took refuge under bales of hay.

"The fox was under a lot of stress and we were worried it might go off and attack us. In the ensuing fracas between the activists and the hunters, the fox was captured and bundled into a van and took it to the Heswall Wildlife Park in Cheshire.

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